

6 Unsubstantiated



CITY OF RIDGECREST

100 West California Avenue, Ridgecrest, California 93555-4054

Telephone 760 499-5004

FAX 760 499-1500

April 27, 2010

Mr. Raffy Kouyoumdjian
Jurisdiction Compliance and Audit Section
Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery
1001 "I" Street, P.O. Box 4025
MS 10-17A
Sacramento, California 95812

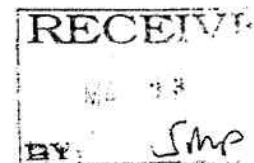
RE: City of Ridgecrest Compliance Order IWMA BR07-07 – Time Extension Request

Dear Mr. Kouyoumdjian,

The City of Ridgecrest (City), is requesting a Time Extension for Compliance Order IWMA BR07-07 (CO) to extend the timeline for full Local Assistance Plan (LAP) implementation from January 4, 2010, to December 31, 2010. The Time Extension will provide the City the necessary time to fully implement the attached proposed amendments to the LAP which outline the specific activities that will be undertaken to meet the terms of the CO.

General concepts for changes in the Residential Recycling Program and Expanded Recycling Programs at the Ridgecrest/Inyokern Landfill are included in this request. The specific tasks and/or the implementation dates may need to be further modified as a result of the upcoming election and work with Kern County on increased recycling opportunities at the Ridgecrest/Inyokern landfill. Any additional proposed tasks and/or revised deadlines will be submitted to CalRecycle by July 15, 2010.

To support this request the following is an update on the implementation of the LAP Tasks, as well as an outline of requested program modifications and additions we believe will allow the City fulfill the CO. Please refer to the modified LAP for the specific subtasks for each Task and associated due dates.



Task 1: Conduct New Waste Generation/Characterization Study and Establish New Base Year (NBY)

The City has fully implemented this task. No further action is required.

Task 2: Public Outreach and Educational Program

The City has developed and distributed public outreach and educational materials; however, the City fully recognizes that one of the most important tools available is outreach and education. To ensure complete and successful LAP implementation and full compliance with the CO, the City is working on enhancing its existing outreach and education efforts by:

- a) Continuing to enhance the City's recycling information website
- b) Providing residents with additional education about the importance of recycling and what is/is not acceptable within the recycling carts.
- c) Enhancing our advertisement efforts.

Task 3: Maintain Existing Greenwaste Efforts

The City will continue to maintain this program. The City has seen success in reducing greenwaste since we adopted a water conservation ordinance to encourage residents to reduce the total amount of landscaping being installed and maintained on both residential and commercial properties.

Task 4: Establish Mandatory Commercial On-Site Collection of Recyclables

The City has implemented this program, and expects the commercial diversion program will continue to increase over time with the additional subtasks identified in the LAP. The City continues to work with the franchise hauler to identify opportunities to enhance the effectiveness of this program. Success will be reflected in the diversion reports received from the City's franchise hauler. To improve the existing programs, the City will incorporate the following enhancements:

- Continue to increase outreach and education (similar to that outlined for the residential program) to increase commercial sector recycling participation and reduce contamination of recyclables.
- Conduct individual business waste audits to determine right sizing of bins/carts.

Task 5: Establish Mandatory Curbside Residential Recycling Program (Note: Proposing to modify program to Voluntary Curbside Residential Recycling Program)

The City has implemented this program. However, the City has encountered some resistance from residents. To address the residents' concerns the City proposes to modify this program to a voluntary residential curbside recycling program and will continue to implement a curbside program, as well as implement a landfill drop-off recycling program, to maximize each resident's recycling opportunities. The recommended modifications to this task represent the most significant change to the LAP. The City's proposal is to:

- Change the mandatory curbside recycling program to voluntary. The existing curbside recycling service will be maintained, and public education/outreach will be enhanced to encourage maximum residential recycling.

- Develop a voluntary residential self-haul recycling (self-haul) program for those that choose not to participate in the existing curbside recycling program.
- The City will monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of the voluntary residential curbside program and the landfill drop-off recycling program to determine the success of the programs and impact on reducing the City's overall waste disposal. Data to be included in the evaluation includes:
 - Tons of materials being diverted through the voluntary residential curbside program;
 - Tons of materials being diverted through buy-back and drop-off recycling centers within the City including, but not limited to, 20/20 (CRV) convenience locations, D.A.R.T., Pearsons, Golden Empire, etc.;
 - Tons of materials being diverted from the City's new corporate yard drop-off center.
 - Tons of materials being diverted at the Ridgecrest/Inyokern Landfill and tons of waste disposed at the landfill.

If the voluntary residential curbside recycling program does not prove effective in increasing recycling tons and decreasing tons disposed by October 1, 2010, the City, upon agreement between the City and CalRecycle, will evaluate the program in October 2010 to determine what changes should be made to further maximize this program, including returning to a mandatory residential recycling program.

Task 6: Materials Recovery Facility Feasibility Study

The City has fully implemented this task. No further action is required.

Task 7: Community Clean-Up Events

The City has continued to successfully implement this program but has identified some opportunities to enhance the program by implementing the following:

- The City will work with the franchise hauler to evaluate use of recycling containers that target typical materials received during the events.
- Develop additional outreach materials to promote the Community Clean-up events and explain the recycling opportunities being provided.
- The City will monitor this program's effectiveness by evaluating all weight tickets provided by the franchise hauler. The City will meet with the franchise hauler to evaluate the program and identify any opportunities to enhance the diversion.

Task 8: On Campus Recycling At Educational Institutions

The City has been effective in getting into the local community schools to educate the students throughout the K-12 system. These existing outreach efforts will continue throughout the Time Extension period. Additionally, the City proposes to enhance the program by:

- Coordinating, through the Mayor's office, a meeting directly with the Superintendent of Schools to create a top down approach to program implementation. The meeting will focus on the City's current efforts to implement recycling and the positive effect K-12 schools could have on City's efforts.

Task 9: City Government Recycling

The City has been very effective in developing and implementing recycling programs within all Departments. The City will continue the existing efforts.

Task 10: Report Quarterly and Annually

To date the City has maintained its commitment to report, in a timely fashion, to CalRecycle. The City will continue to report quarterly regarding the progress in implementing all of the LAP programs. The City will also continue to submit the annual report as specified in the LAP.

Task 11: Establishment of a Mini Recycling Center and Drop-Off Facility at the City's Corporate Yard

The City has established and is fully implementing this very successful program. The City will continue to implement and monitor this program and look for opportunities to enhance the effectiveness through continued monthly monitoring of the diversion reports received from the franchise hauler and the D.A.R.T. facility.

Task 12: Establish On-Site Newspaper Collection

The City has implemented this task. The City proposes to enhance the program by implementing the following:

- Coordinate with the largest generators of newsprint within the City to obtain accurate newsprint diversion tonnages.

Task 13: Develop and Expand Recycling Programs at Ridgecrest/Inyokern Landfill

The City has begun discussions with the County of Kern and CalRecycle to expand upon the recycling opportunities at the Ridgecrest/Inyokern landfill in the near future. This expanded program is being developed to support the voluntary curbside residential recycling program.

At this time the City has proposed tentative dates in the LAP, and will confirm these dates upon approval of the program by the County.

Task 14: Expand the City's "Green" Procurement Policies

The City has effectively implemented this Task. The City will continue make "green" procurement a priority.


The proposed revised LAP (attached) contains a description of the modified programs and new subtasks that the City proposes to implement to fully meet the requirements of the CO. The modified LAP was accepted by the City Council on April 21, 2010 with minor modifications based on the revised ordinance.

The City is requesting an extension of the timeline for full LAP implementation to be December 31, 2010. Should any complications arise, the City of Ridgecrest will immediately notify CalRecycle and seek both assistance from the Local Assistance and Market Development (LAMD) Division and provide information to the Jurisdiction Compliance and Audit (JCA) Section outlining the complications and additional information to explain the impacts on complete implementation of the CO.

The City is aware that CalRecycle will monitor LAP implementation for a one year period after the last program implementation date (January 1 to December 31, 2011). During the monitoring period the City will continue to fully implement all waste diversion programs, provide its quarterly reports along with any collected monthly disposal and recycling reports received from the City's franchise hauler and other recycling vendors throughout the City.

Thank you in advance for your consideration,

Sincerely,



Harvey M. Rose
Interim City Manager

cc: City Council
Jim McRea
Lorraine VanKekerix
Cara Morgan

